

Harkin	Lincoln	Schumer
Hatch	Lott	Sessions
Helms	Lugar	Shelby
Hollings	McCain	Smith (NH)
Hutchinson	McConnell	Smith (OR)
Hutchison	Mikulski	Snowe
Inhofe	Miller	Specter
Inouye	Murkowski	Stabenow
Jeffords	Murray	Stevens
Johnson	Nelson (FL)	Thomas
Kennedy	Nelson (NE)	Thurmond
Kerry	Nickles	Torricelli
Kohl	Reed	Voinovich
Kyl	Reid	Warner
Landrieu	Roberts	Wellstone
Leahy	Rockefeller	Wyden
Levin	Santorum	
Lieberman	Sarbanes	

NOT VOTING—3

Byrd	Dayton	Thompson
------	--------	----------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BAUCUS). The motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

The Senator from New Mexico.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator MILLER from Georgia for 10 minutes, followed by Senator ROBERTS from Kansas for 10 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, be recognized for 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my concern is we have pending a cloture vote tomorrow at some time. I have no objection to accommodating my colleagues to speak this morning, but I wonder if we could get some idea as to how to proceed so that this would not take away from the time before the proposed cloture vote. I have no idea what time it would be.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Alaska, the majority leader said that people can talk tonight as long as they care to talk. He has not yet decided what time the cloture vote will be in the morning, but there should be time to talk in the morning also.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Then, I would simply appeal to the majority leader, who I see is on the floor, to allow us an additional time from whatever his time may be, which we do not know.

But to extend the courtesy, I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I put our Members on notice, we have probably 15 Members who want to speak today. So I suspect we will be in rather late this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I modify my request, that after the Senator from Vermont and the Senator from Pennsylvania and the Senator from Georgia and the Senator from Kansas have all spoken, that we go back on the bill, and that I be recognized to speak at that time on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their unanimous and positive vote on the last nominee. I will bring everybody up to date.

Today, the Senate is voting on the 44th judicial nominee to be confirmed since last July when the Senate Judiciary Committee was reassigned new members in connection with the reorganization of the Senate after the shift in majority. The confirmation of Judge Africk will be the third district court judgeship we have filled in Louisiana and the seventh judgeship filled overall in the Fifth Circuit since July, including the first new judge for the Fifth Circuit in seven years. In fact, it was this Senate's confirmation of Judge Edith Brown Clement last fall that created this vacancy, which we are now proceeding to fill without delay.

In the past few months, the Senate has also confirmed Judge Kurt Engelhardt and Judge Jay Zainey to fill vacancies on the District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. The Senate has confirmed Judge Michael Mills to fill a vacancy on the District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. The Senate has also confirmed Judge Philip Martinez to fill a vacancy on the District Court for the Western District of Texas and Judge Randy Crane to fill a vacancy on the District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Of course many of the vacancies in the Fifth Circuit are longstanding. Judge Clement was confirmed to fill a judicial emergency on the Fifth Circuit. Judge Martinez and Judge Crane likewise filled what had been judicial emergencies. These many vacancies and emergencies are the legacy of the years of inaction. For example, despite the fact that President Clinton nominated Jorge Rangel, a distinguished Hispanic attorney, to fill a Fifth Circuit vacancy in July 1997, Mr. Rangel never received a hearing and his nomination was returned to the President without Senate action at the end of 1998. On September 16, 1999, President Clinton nominated Enrique Moreno, another outstanding Hispanic attor-

ney, to fill a vacancy on the Fifth Circuit but that nominee never received a hearing either. When President Bush took office last January, he withdrew the nomination of Enrique Moreno to the Fifth Circuit. The Senate has moved quickly to confirm Judge Armijo in New Mexico and Judges Martinez and Crane in Texas, who were among the very few Hispanic judicial nominees sent so far by this Administration to us.

The Senate received Judge Africk's nomination the last week in January and his paperwork was complete on March 6. Judge Africk was scheduled for the very next confirmation hearing on March 19. He has been serving as a federal magistrate in the Eastern District of Louisiana for more than a decade. Judge Africk is a member of the Federalist society and a registered Republican. His confirmation, along with that of Judge Clement, Judge Wooten in South Carolina, Judge Mills in Mississippi, Judge Caldwell in Kentucky, Judge Granade in Alabama, Judge Hartz to the Tenth Circuit, and so many others, shows that the Senate has been very accommodating to this Administration's conservative nominations.

The Senate is making progress on judicial confirmations. Under Democratic leadership, the Senate has confirmed more judges in the last nine months than were confirmed in four out of 6 full years under Republican leadership. The number of judicial confirmations over this time—44—exceeds the number confirmed during all 12 months of 2000, 1999, 1997 and 1996.

During the preceding 6½ years in which a Republican majority most recently controlled the pace of judicial confirmations in the Senate, 248 judges were confirmed. Some like to talk about the 377 judges confirmed during the Clinton administration, but forget to mention that more than one-third were confirmed during the first 2 years of the Clinton administration while the Senate majority was Democratic and Senator BIDEN chaired the Judiciary Committee. The pace of confirmations under a Republican majority was markedly slower—especially in 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2000.

Thus, during the 6½ years of Republican control of the Senate, judicial confirmations averaged 38 per year a pace of consideration and confirmation that we have already exceeded under Democratic leadership over these past nine months in spite of all of the challenges facing Congress and the Nation during this period and all of the obstacles Republicans have placed in our path.

I ask myself how Republicans can justify seeking to hold the Democratic majority in the Senate to a different standard than the one they met themselves during the last 6½ years. There simply is no answer other than partisanship. This double standard is most apparent when Republicans refuse fairly to compare the progress we are making with the period in which they were